IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (original) An electronic circuit design apparatus for designing an electronic circuit on a screen, comprising:

a storage device to store contour information about each component;

an indication device to indicate a plurality of components to be collectively arranged in the electronic circuit and a layout distance between two of the plurality of components;

a calculation device to obtain contour information about the plurality of components from the storage device and to calculate a contour of a component region for collectively arranging the plurality of components using the obtained contour information and the indicated layout distance; and

a display device to display the calculated contour of the component region on the screen.

2. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a component region to be transformed;

the calculation device transforms the indicated component region; and

the display device displays a transformed component region.

3. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a component region to which attribute information is set; and

the calculation device sets attribute information about each component included in the indicated component region.

4. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a plurality of components that are separately arranged in the electronic circuit; and

the display device collectively displays the indicated plurality of components as a component region.

5. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a component region to be divided; and

the display device separately displays at least one indicated component from among a plurality of components included in the indicated component region and collectively displays remaining components as a component region.

6. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a component region to be divided; and

the calculation device divides the indicated component region into a plurality of component regions; and

the display device displays the plurality of component regions.

7. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a plurality of component regions to be integrated;

the calculation device integrates the indicated plurality of component regions into one component region; and

the display device displays the one component region.

8. (original) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the indication device indicates a reference component; and

the calculation device calculates a contour of the component region in consideration of a relative position relation between the indicated reference component and the plurality of components.

9. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, designs an electronic circuit on a screen, the executing program causes the computer to perform:

indicating a plurality of components to be collectively arranged in the electronic circuit and a layout distance between two of the plurality of components;

calculating a contour of a component region for collectively arranging the plurality of components using contour information about the plurality of components and the indicated layout distance; and

displaying the calculated contour of the component region on the screen.

10. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a component region to be transformed; and

transforming the indicated component region and displaying a transformed component region.

11. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a component region to which attribute information is set; and

setting attribute information about each component included in the indicated component region.

12. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a plurality of components that are separately arranged in the electronic circuit; and

collectively displaying the indicated plurality of components as a component region.

13. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a component region to be divided;

separately displaying at least one indicated component from among a plurality of components included in the indicated component region; and

collectively displaying remaining components as a component region.

14. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a component region to be divided; and

dividing the indicated component region into a plurality of component regions and displaying the plurality of component regions.

15. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform:

indicating a plurality of component regions to be integrated; and

integrating the indicated plurality of component regions into one component region and displaying the one component region.

16. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the executing program causes the computer to further perform indicating a reference component and the computer calculates a contour of the component region in consideration of a relative position relation between the indicated reference component and the plurality of components.

17. (original) An electronic circuit design method of designing an electronic circuit on a screen comprising:

indicating a plurality of components to be collectively arranged in the electronic circuit and a layout distance between two of the plurality of components;

calculating a contour of a component region for collectively arranging the plurality of components using contour information about the plurality of components and the indicated layout distance; and

displaying the calculated contour of the component region on the screen.

18. (previously presented) The electronic circuit design apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: the component region is determined by type of component and number of components.